

Docket No. VAS-5041DIV2

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE- GROUP 3738****Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)):**

I, Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

[X] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to Central Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.

Dated:

Name of Person Certifying:

Printed Name:

Melissa Sanchez

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

In re Application of: Shannon, et al.

) Group Art Unit: 3738

APR - 8 2004

10 Application No.: 09/981,337

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) Examiner: Brian E. Pellegrino

Filing Date: October 16, 2001

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15 For: RADIALLY EXPANDABLE STENTED
TUBULAR PTFE GRAFTS

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OFFICIAL**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**20 Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated December 11, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application in light of the following amendments and remarks.

30 Amendments to the claims are shown in the Claim Listing, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

A Petition for a one-month extension of time is also submitted herewith to extend the

time for response.

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Serial No.: 09/981,337
Docket No.: VAS-5041DIV2
Amendment dated April 8, 2004
Responsive to Office Action of December 11, 2003

Petition For Extension of Time

Applicants believe that a One-Month extension of time to reply is in order under the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.136 and/or 1.191 and, therefore, Applicants request such an extension. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the One-Month extension fee of \$110.00 to deposit Account No. 50-1225 (VAS-5041DIV2). Applicants also request for such further extension of time to reply as the Commissioner deems necessary.

Fees Due to File This Amendment

The amendment has resulted in no additional net claims, and thus no claim fees are believed necessary. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit Account No. 50-1225 (VAS-5041DIV2) for any fees deemed appropriate.

Conclusion

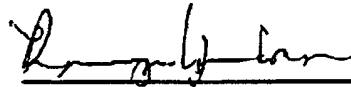
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that claims 103-105 are in condition for allowance and, therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance to this effect.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (949) 250-6801.

If an appropriate payment does not accompany or precede this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, such as under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, including any request for extension of time, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1225 (VAS-5041DIV2). A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 2004


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